

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



2 APR 2005

(43) International Publication Date  
13 May 2004 (13.05.2004)

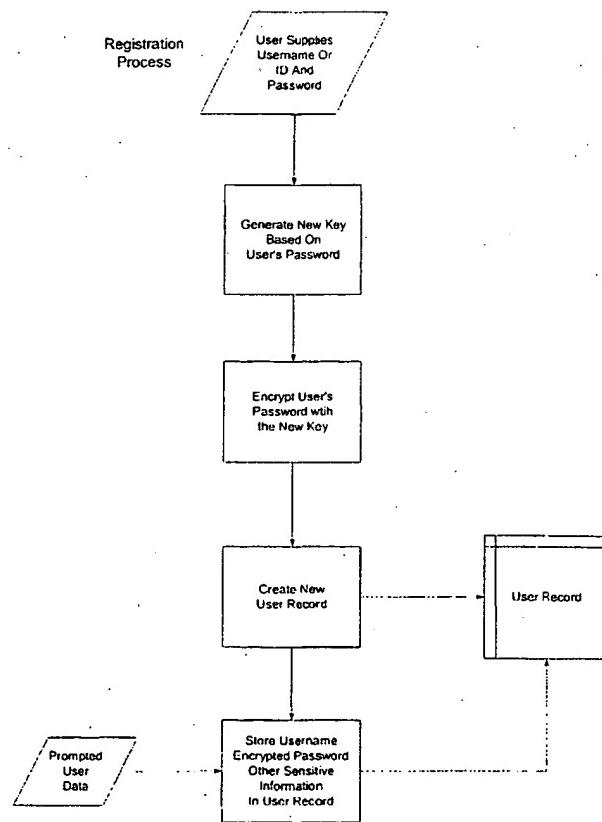
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/040410 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G06F
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2003/033589
- (22) International Filing Date: 23 October 2003 (23.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/421,284 25 October 2002 (25.10.2002) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): GRAND VIRTUAL INC [US/US]; 100 Cambridge Park Drive, Cambridge, MA 02140 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): UTIN, Daniil [RU/US]; 161 Winding River Road, Needham, MA 02492 (RU).
- (74) Agent: HENNESSEY, Gilbert, H.; Fish & Richardson P.C., 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2804 (US).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, ÜZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: PASSWORD ENCRYPTION KEY



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(57) Abstract: A password-encrypted key (PEK) is generated from a user-supplied password or other identifying data and then used to encrypt the user's password. The encrypted password is stored in a user record on a server. At login a would-be user's password is again used to make a key, which is then used to decrypt and compare the stored encrypted password with the would-be user's password to complete the login. The successful PEK is stored in a temporary session record and can be used to decrypt other sensitive user information previously encrypted and stored in the user record as well as to encrypt new information for storage in the user record. A public/private key system can also be used to maintain limited access for the host to certain information in the user record.



**Published:**

- without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

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